

Section 1: Introduction

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Planning Context and Limitations

King County is comprised of 154 agencies including cities, fire districts, school districts, utility districts, hospital districts and miscellaneous other small jurisdictions. Of these, 29 jurisdictions participated in the creation of this initial submission of the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Some cities and utility districts have chosen to produce their own mitigation plan as well. For this reason, the current planning document may lack details regarding particular portions of geographic King County. Subsequent revisions will include additional jurisdictions and an increasingly complete coverage of geographic King County as we gain more participation from regional partners.

Preface and Overview

Executive Summary

Legal Authority

Mission and Vision

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Task Force developed the mission and vision statements with input from the Partner's groups. It was the intent of both groups to keep these statements simple and broad in scope.

Mission

“Reduce the impact of natural, technological and human caused disasters upon the communities within King County.”

Vision

“King County is a region where disasters have minimal impact on people, infrastructure and the environment.”

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives were based on the mission and vision statements above and are listed in order of priority. Mitigation strategies and activities are based on these goals.

- 1) Protect Life and Property
- 2) Support Emergency Services
- 3) Increase Public Awareness
- 4) Preserve Natural Systems and Resources
- 5) Encourage Partnerships
- 6) Enhance Planning Activities

Protect Life and Property

- Implement activities that assist in protecting lives and property by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.
- Maintain essential services, facilities and infrastructures during a disaster.
- Identify populations with special needs or those who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters or hazard events.
- Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events.
- Provide and/or improve emergency warning systems.

Support Emergency Services

- Strengthen and support countywide disaster and emergency response efforts.
- Protect and maintain critical facilities, infrastructures and services essential to emergency service and disaster response activities.

Increase Public Awareness

- Enhance the public's knowledge about hazards that occur in the region and how they can be impacted.
- Support education and outreach programs to increase the public's awareness about disaster preparedness, mitigation, emergency response, and recovery activities.

- Develop education strategies, programs and materials to reach populations with special needs.
- Provide and support comprehensive education activities that address all sectors of the community.

Preserve Natural Systems and Resources

- Insure protection of agriculture, fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- Balance watershed planning, natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation to protect life, property and the environment.

Encourage Partnerships

- Strengthen communication and participation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, business and industry.
- Coordinate hazard mitigation planning efforts with other local and regional organizations involved in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

Enhance Planning Activities

- Improve data collection and evaluation processes for identifying critical facilities, infrastructures, essential services, and populations at risk.
- Improve hazard assessment information and resources.
- Enhance and increase participation and representation on the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Task Force and Partners Committee.
- Facilitate on-going review and implementation of the plan.
- Actively monitor and evaluate the status, implementation and completion of mitigation action items.
- Routinely review, update and enhance all aspects of the plan.

Region 6 (Relationships)
